

In re Patent Application of:

FLICK

Serial No. 10/043,077

Confirmation No. 6614

Filed: JANUARY 9, 2002

In the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Claims 1-17 (Canceled).

18. (Currently amended) A vehicle control system for a vehicle comprising a vehicle data communications bus extending throughout the vehicle, a vehicle alarm indicator connected thereto, and an instrument panel carrying the vehicle alarm indicator, the vehicle alarm indicator comprising at least one original equipment icon, the vehicle control system comprising:

at least one uniquely coded transmitter to be carried by a user;

a receiver at the vehicle for receiving signals from said at least one uniquely coded transmitter; and

a controller at the vehicle spaced apart from the at least one original equipment icon ~~vehicle alarm indicator~~, communicating with the at least one original equipment icon ~~vehicle alarm indicator~~ via the vehicle data communications bus, and cooperating with said receiver and the vehicle data communications bus for

learning the at least one uniquely coded transmitter to permit control of a vehicle function by the user,

communicating with the at least one original equipment icon ~~vehicle alarm indicator~~ via

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said data communications bus to cause an indication of whether at least one new uniquely coded transmitter has been learned, and

causing the at least one original equipment icon ~~vehicle alarm indicator~~ to generate an indication of a number of learned uniquely coded transmitters.

19. (Currently amended) A vehicle control system according to Claim 18 wherein the at least one original equipment icon ~~vehicle alarm indicator~~ comprises at least one of a light, a visual display, a vibration transducer, a speech message generator, and an audible signal generator.

20. (Canceled).

21. (Original) A vehicle control system according to Claim 18 wherein the vehicle further comprises a vehicle sensor; and wherein said controller communicates with the vehicle sensor via the vehicle data communications bus.

22. (Canceled).

23. (Original) A vehicle control system according to Claim 18 wherein the vehicle further comprises a controllable vehicle device; and wherein said controller communicates with the controllable vehicle device via the vehicle data communications bus.

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Claims 24-29. (Canceled).

30. (Currently amended) A vehicle control system for a vehicle comprising a vehicle data communications bus extending throughout the vehicle, a vehicle alarm indicator connected thereto, and an instrument panel carrying the vehicle alarm indicator, the vehicle alarm indicator comprising at least one original equipment icon, the vehicle control system comprising:

a biometric characteristic sensor for sensing a unique biometric characteristic of a user; and

a controller at the vehicle spaced apart from the at least one original equipment icon ~~vehicle alarm indicator~~ and cooperating with said biometric characteristic sensor and the vehicle data communications bus for

communicating with the at least one original equipment icon ~~vehicle alarm indicator~~ via the data communications bus,

learning the unique biometric characteristic to permit control of a vehicle function by the user, and

communicating with the at least one original equipment icon ~~vehicle alarm indicator~~ via the vehicle data communications bus to cause an indication of whether at least one new unique biometric characteristic has been learned.

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31. (Canceled).

32. (Currently amended) A vehicle control system according to Claim 30 wherein the at least one original equipment icon ~~vehicle alarm indicator~~ comprises at least one of a light, a visual display, a vibration transducer, a speech message generator, and an audible signal generator.

Claims 33-38 (Canceled).

39. (Previously presented) A vehicle control system according to Claim 30 wherein said controller is switchable to a learning mode to permit learning of a new unique biometric characteristic; and wherein said controller causes an indication that the learning mode has been entered.

40. (Original) A vehicle control system according to Claim 39 wherein said controller causes an indication when the learning mode has last been entered.

41. (Original) A vehicle control system according to Claim 39 wherein said controller causes an indication for progressively indicating a passage of time since the learning mode has last been entered.

42. (Previously presented) A vehicle control system according to Claim 30 wherein said controller causes an

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indication of a number of learned unique biometric characteristics.

43. (Previously presented) A vehicle control system according to Claim 30 wherein said controller causes an indication of a change in a number of learned unique biometric characteristics.

44. (Previously presented) A vehicle control system according to Claim 30 wherein said controller causes an indication of a change in a learned unique biometric characteristic.

45. (Original) A vehicle control system according to Claim 30 wherein said biometric sensor comprises at least one of a fingerprint sensor, a voice pattern sensor, a facial pattern sensor, a skin pattern sensor, a hand pattern sensor, a venous pattern sensor and a retinal pattern sensor.

Claims 46-56 (Canceled).

57. (Currently amended) A vehicle control method for a vehicle comprising a vehicle data communications bus extending throughout the vehicle, a vehicle alarm indicator connected thereto, and an instrument panel carrying the vehicle alarm indicator, the vehicle alarm indicator comprising at least one original equipment icon, the method comprising:

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sensing a unique biometric characteristic of a user from a biometric characteristic sensor; and

using a controller at the vehicle spaced apart from the at least one original equipment icon ~~vehicle alarm indicator~~ and cooperating with the biometric characteristic sensor and the vehicle data communications bus for

communicating with the at least one original equipment icon ~~vehicle alarm indicator~~ via the data communications bus,

learning the unique biometric characteristic to permit control of a vehicle function by the user, and

communicating with the at least one original equipment icon ~~vehicle alarm indicator~~ via the vehicle data communications bus to cause an indication of whether at least one new unique biometric characteristic has been learned.

58. (Canceled).

59. (Currently amended) A method according to Claim 57 wherein the at least one original equipment icon ~~vehicle alarm indicator~~ comprises at least one of a light, a visual display, a vibration transducer, a speech message generator, and an audible signal generator.

Claims 60-63 (Canceled).

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64. (Previously presented) A method according to Claim 57 wherein said controller is switchable to a learning mode to permit learning of a new unique biometric characteristic; and wherein said controller causes an indication that the learning mode has been entered.

65. (Previously presented) A method according to Claim 57 wherein said controller causes an indication of a number of learned unique biometric characteristics.

66. (Previously presented) A method according to Claim 57 wherein said controller causes an indication of a change in a number of learned unique biometric characteristics.

67. (Previously presented) A method according to Claim 57 wherein said controller causes an indication of a change in a learned unique biometric characteristic.